



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Jordan Electorate, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.22 pm): As we know, each May, Queensland marks Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month to raise community awareness of domestic and family violence and send a clear message that all forms of violence, particularly against women and children, will not be tolerated—not now, not ever.

The community of greater Springfield is fortunate to have so many organisations, charities and community groups working closely to ensure that women and children escaping violence in their region are being offered practical support and assistance. In this month, I would like to highlight the work of three of those organisations and services.

The Domestic Violence Action Centre is a very important organisation in my community for the work it undertakes towards the abolition of all forms of violence against women and children. DVAC provides an extensive range of services on both an individual and community level—crisis support, counselling, advice on safety upgrades, court support, and community education initiatives. DVAC's work is invaluable and much respected within my community. It was wonderful to see the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce once again organise a very successful International Women's Day lunch to raise much needed funds for DVAC's ongoing and important work in my community.

For the past two years I have also worked closely with Cityhope Church and its charity arm, Cityhope Care, which has developed the A New Thing initiative. It is a credit to Pastor Mark Edwards and the church that this initiative provides a considered and dedicated response in supporting vulnerable individuals leaving domestic and family violence. All too often people escaping domestic and family violence leave with nothing. Cityhope Care has responded by providing front-line agencies with practical and immediate care packs to support those who are taking their first brave steps to leave domestic and family violence situations. The packs are specially created for women, teens, children, babies and men. The care packs not only provide essential items but also include important information and resources to support a holistic response. The care packs also include a message of hope and additional resources that are individualised according to need, such as SIM recharge cards.

With the generosity of my community, Cityhope Care has packed in excess of \$230,000 worth of these care packs. The care packs are generously stored with front-line agencies, such as the Queensland Police Service and Ipswich Hospital, and are collaboratively shared across agencies for distribution as needed. My office serves as a collection point and it has been so pleasing to see the generosity of the members of my local community, who have been purchasing and dropping off supplies for the care packs.

Finally, I would like to thank the Queensland Police Service Vulnerable Persons Unit and the High Risk Team, which works in the domestic and family violence space in both the Ipswich and Logan regions. The work they do is complex, difficult and sometimes heartbreaking, but it is vitally important in ensuring that women and children in my electorate know that there is a network of services working together to support them and to keep them safe.